

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended).

A chummer comprising:

a housing having an inlet port, an outlet port, and an opening for receiving bait;

a motor attached to the housing, the motor having a shaft axially extending through the housing;

a first cutting blade attached to the shaft;

an impeller blade attached to the shaft and located between the inlet port and the outlet port and below the first cutting blade, wherein rotation of the shaft causes rotation of the impeller blade which causes water to be drawn into the housing through the inlet port and discharged through the outlet port whenever the outlet port is positioned below the water line; and

wherein the housing is placed into the water so that the inlet port and the outlet port are beneath the water line, the bait is placed into the opening, and the motor is activated and rotates the shaft such that bait falls through the housing and is cut up by the first cutting blade and the impeller blade draws water through the inlet port into the housing wherein the water is mixed with the cut up bait and the mixed water and cut up bait are expelled through the outlet port.

Claim 2 (original).

The chummer as in claim 1 wherein the motor is an electric motor.

Claim 3 (original).

The chummer as in claim 1 wherein the motor is reversible such that the rotation of the shaft is reversible.

Claim 4 (original).

The chummer as in claim 1 further comprising a second blade attached to the shaft between the first cutting blade and the impeller blade.

Claim 5 (original).

The chummer as in claim 4 wherein the distance between the first cutting blade and the second cutting blade is changeable.

Claim 6 (original).

The chummer as in claim 4 further comprising a spacer disposed between the first cutting blade and the second cutting blade.

Claim 7 (original).

The chummer as in claim 1 further comprising a mounting bracket attached to the housing.

Claim 8 (original).

The chummer as in claim 7 wherein the mounting bracket is pivotally attached to the housing.

Claim 9 (currently amended).

A chummer comprising:
a housing having a top cap, a bottom cap, an inlet port, an outlet port, and an opening for receiving bait;
a motor attached to the top cap of the housing, the motor having a shaft axially extending through the housing;
a first cutting blade attached to the shaft;

an impeller blade attached to the shaft and located between the inlet port and the outlet port and below the first cutting blade, wherein rotation of the shaft causes rotation of the impeller blade which causes water to be drawn into the housing through the inlet port and discharged through the outlet port whenever the outlet port is positioned below the water line; and

wherein the housing is placed into the water so that the inlet port and the outlet port are beneath the water line, the bait is placed into the opening, and the motor is activated and rotates the shaft such that bait falls through the housing and is cut up by the first cutting blade and the impeller blade draws water through the inlet port into the housing wherein the water is mixed with the cut up bait and the mixed water and cut up bait are expelled through the outlet port.

Claim 10 (original).

The chummer as in claim 9 wherein the motor is an electric motor.

Claim 11 (original).

The chummer as in claim 9 wherein the motor is reversible such that the rotation of the shaft is reversible.

Claim 12 (original).

The chummer as in claim 9 further comprising a second blade attached to the shaft between the first cutting blade and the impeller blade.

Claim 13 (original).

The chummer as in claim 12 wherein the distance between the first cutting blade and the second cutting blade is changeable.

Claim 14 (original).

The chummer as in claim 12 further comprising a spacer disposed between the first cutting blade and the second cutting blade.

Claim 15 (original).

The chummer as in claim 9 further comprising a mounting bracket attached to the housing.

Claim 16 (original).

The chummer as in claim 15 wherein the mounting bracket is pivotally attached to the housing.

Claim 17 (original).

The chummer as in claim 9 wherein an end of the shaft is received within a bearing assembly attached to the bottom cap.

Claim 18 (original).

The chummer as in claim 9 wherein the bottom cap is removably attached to the housing.

Claims 19-25 (canceled).